



PARISH OF ST. AGATHA



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THANK YOU

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the parish for your great faith. It is refreshing to witness such commitment and dedication shown by you all. Up to four hundred people attended our Christmas Masses over the two day period. Thank you for your generosity with the Church Collections and Family Envelopes and to all those who collect same. Thank you to back-room parish team of volunteers; Sr. Bridget, Sr. Nuala, Paddy and Olive Tucker, the Mop Ladies and Gentlemen, Rita and Mae in the Shop, and to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Thank you to our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, the Funeral Team, and the Welcome Ministry Team. Each of you are very much appreciated. Thank you to our parish secretary, Mrs. Maureen Grant.

Wishing you all a Joyful and a Grace-filled New Year and continued Good Health.

Tues:10am Funeral Mass Mr Seamus Bradley RIP

News Years Eve
Tues 31st Dec

11am Daily Mass
11.00pm –12.00am Eucharistic Adoration
12.00am Midnight New Year's Mass

News Years Day
Wed 1st Jan

11.00am Mass, Feast of Mary the Holy
Mother of God & World Day of Peace

Thurs 2nd Jan
Fri/Sat 3rd/4th

11.00am Mass
11.00am Mass



WE ARE PART OF GOD'S HEAVENLY HOLY FAMILY ON EARTH

As we celebrate the Holy Family today, it is a time when we can reflect on the quality of our own family life in the light of the Church's First Family. The Holy Family of Nazareth is a true model of a Christian home. We, as Christians, are very much part of this Holy Family - since we entered it through Baptism when God clothed us in Love and entered our soul in Peace.

DON'T LET THE FAMILY DOWN!

To follow Jesus is to belong to this New Family. It is a Family with stronger ties than flesh and blood and worldly values. It is a family which is bound in love and obedience to God, as our heavenly Father and to Jesus as our spiritual Brother. We are called to become a family committed to the Will of God and each other. St Paul today says we should be *clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness, humility and patience. We should bear with one another and forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven us; now we must do the same.*

ACT ACCORDINGLY

God continually lavishes His Love upon us, as we are His own adopted children. He asks that we behave in such a manner, that is befitting of our status, as members of this heavenly family. He is asking us to live the kind of life which considers His Commandments seriously, in that, we believe in the Teachings of his Son Jesus Christ and that above all, we love one another and forgive one another, in all circumstances because *we are called together as parts of One Body.*

FAITH IN ACTION

In marriage and in all relationships, one is called to practice respect and compassion. Jesus is Love and Mercy and should be the centre of all partnerships. Selfishness removes the garment of Compassion in all relationships which removes Jesus, leading to break-ups and heartaches. We must take care of each other especially in difficult moments. Children are the responsibility of every parent, who have a God given Duty to nurture them within a Family environment.

FAMILY AND CHURCH

A Catholic family should reflect a Christian community. It should be a house of love and a place to find forgiveness and comfort. It should be a Domestic Church where the family is rooted in God and then harmony and peace will follow. The Parish should also be a Family which is not meant to be lived in isolation but supported by other families in the parish. The mission of the family is identical to that of the whole Church: to give visible witness to the vision of Christ, who is Kindness, Patience, Humility, Love, Compassion, Caring and Forgiving.

GOD'S AUTHORITY IS EVERYTHING

While Mary and Joseph were sick with worry looking for their Son, it was a planned opportunity by Jesus to remind them, as he also reminds us today, that Our True Father is Almighty God in Heaven, who is Our Creator - no one can replace Him, as He is the One who will raise us from the Dead and give us the Gift of Eternal New Life. It is important that we begin to be busy with His Teaching of Love and Mercy now - if we are going to rely on Him to bring us and our families to Heaven after our Death. It is important we respect God's Authority from Heaven. *Thy Will be Done.* I wish you all a Peaceful, Holy and Joyful 2020. God bless, Fr. Brendan